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**ABSTRACTS FROM THESES,
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Abstracts from one M.Phil, one M.Litt., and two MA theses in archaeology completed during the period late 1990 to early 1991 are given below. Copies are held in the Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland, where they may be consulted in the Piddington Room. Xerox or microfiche copies may be made available through the General Library, Auckland University, at cost, plus GST and postage. These are subject to the usual restrictions applying to theses, namely the understanding that their use is for private research and not publication.

K. Tore Kronqvist, Tahanga Basalt: The Rock and its Role in New Zealand Prehistory. MA thesis. 1991. Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract; (xvi) 206 pp., 47 plates, 27 figures, 5 tables, 6 maps, 7 plans, 2 appendices.

The aim of the research was to reconstruct the prehistoric technology employed in the manufacture of adzes at Tahanga Hill on the Coromandel Peninsula. The research began with extensive surveying at the quarry, resulting in a series of maps which are presented in this thesis.

Owing to erosion, fossicking, and livestock damage, the surface material was considered too disturbed to provide samples for refitting debitage. It was therefore necessary to carry out a smallscale excavation to obtain the appropriate material. Refitting was successful, with 117 specimens joined. This, together with extensive analysis of nominal and continuous lithic attributes, provided information on how the lithic material was exploited in prehistory.

In a series of experiments adzes were made from Tahanga basalt to better interpret the excavated data, and a model for a reduction sequence was developed.

Other important aspects relating to lithic studies explored in this thesis include the mechanisms behind the dispersal of Tahanga basalt and reasons for change in these processes during prehistory.

Elizabeth Matisoo-Smith, Genetic Variation in Polynesia: Implications for Polynesian Prehistory. MA thesis. 1990. Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract; (vii) 113 pp., 17 figures, 19 tables.

The origin and dispersal of Polynesian populations has long been a subject of debate among Pacific prehistorians. Despite the potential for the application

of genetic evidence to the problem, to date biological anthropologists have contributed little to understanding the implications of variation within Polynesia. In this thesis published genetic data for Polynesian populations is collated, presented and analysed in an attempt to evaluate the biological support for a recently developed theory regarding the settlement of Polynesia and the subsequent dispersal and interaction of Polynesian populations.

Simon H. Bickler, The Great Chain: Early Pottery Trade along the South Coast of Papua. M.Phil thesis. 1991. Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract; (xiv) 253 pp., 54 figures, 37 tables, 3 appendices, 1 floppy disk.

This thesis examines the role of pottery in the trade networks along the south coast of Papua New Guinea following the initial arrival of pottery at around 1900 BP through to the period of ceramic stylistic change which swept along the coast from about 1200 to 800 BP. A collection of 185 potsherds from 44 archaeological sites was analysed using thin-section petrography, X-Ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy, Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis and Scanning Electron Microscopy to identify sources of pottery in the Central District of Papua New Guinea. Sherds from the Gulf of Papua area were then examined and found to be from both Hall Sound and Port Moresby potters.

Sourcing of the pottery suggested stylistic markers which might be indicative of different Early period potting industries present in the Port Moresby region. Analysis of sherds from Hall Sound, including a sample from the site of Oposisi on Yule Island, provided the first chemical information on pottery from this area. The study reviewed previous models of the Early period in light of this new information and suggested mechanisms of change during this time. It concludes with a discussion of the influence of these mechanisms on the later prehistory.

Mary O'Keeffe, Prehistoric Settlement in the Western Bay of Plenty. M.Litt. thesis. 1991. Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract; (ix) 175 pp., 7 plates, 49 figures, 8 tables, 5 appendices.

Over three summers of archaeological site recording, 4723 sites were recorded in Tauranga County. The study addresses this body of data, and examines the settlement patterns and their relationships to the environment of Tauranga County. The archaeological data is examined and rationalised. A site model is proposed to explain the archaeological data present. The environment is studied, and 10 environmental zones devised. The relationships between the archaeological components, and between the sites and the environment, are analysed visually and statistically. A more detailed study is made of the pa, and their size and morphology examined. Their relationships to the undefended sites, and to the environment is discussed. A functional model for analysis of pa is suggested. Radiocarbon dates from 49 samples are discussed in relation

to their significance and contexts.

Analysis shows there is a positive relationship between site location and environment. Topography and slope, and resource availability, are the two main environmental factors influencing site locations. There is a disparity in locational preference and economic dependence between the western and eastern parts of the County. Western areas have a dependence on marine resources and eastern regions are dependent on inland horticultural resources.

A site model of defended and undefended sites, with defended sites as either defended settlements or citadels, is found to be valid for the data. Excavated material and radiocarbon dates indicate settlement from the 14th century onwards, and pa being built soon after initial settlement. Many sites were reoccupied over time, and many undefended sites were later defended.